

HISTORIC CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMISSION – NEWPORT, RI

Minutes: September 14, 2016

Newport Public Library, Rotary Room

Commissioners present-Andy Bjork, Lew Keen, Jean Quinn, Mary Jo Valdes, Ingrid Peters

Participants- Bert Lippincott, Alyssa Lozupone, Robert Russell, Scott Wheeler

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm
2. Minutes from August 10, 2016 meeting were approved as presented
3. Updates/announcements –
 - a. Alyssa Lozupone application to join the commission has not yet been reviewed. A second interested person (Jane Parkinson) has also applied.
 - b. Scott Wheeler shared that students from Roger Williams University made good progress towards repainting the fence along the Common Burying Ground Farewell Street fence. Additional community groups welcome.
 - c. Regarding the William Mayes 'found' stone:
 - i. Bob Butler of the RI Historical Cemetery Commission will be picking the stone up in PA and bringing it back. Transportation is anticipated by the end of the month.
 - ii. Next steps are to 're-set' the stone in a place based on historical research
 - iii. The commission plans to explore/create a celebratory and press event around the re-setting
 1. Robert Russell and a Salve University team of students may participate
 2. October 22nd (11am) was discussed as a possible date – to be confirmed
4. Old/Unfinished Business

Discussion regarding stone work needed in the Common Burying Ground

- Scott reported that the RFP to hire a Conservator is still in progress.
- Commission discussed and re-confirmed its role as an 'advisory' group.
 - As such its role would be to 'advise' and 'guide' the to-be hired conservator on areas of focus and priority.
- Commission discussed future focus it might give to the future Conservator, with the following agreements:
 - Priority and focus would be on 'God's Little Acre'
 - We would not allocate 100% of available funds to this one project, allowing for other critical projects to be considered
- Commission reviewed and discussed a list of stones with pictures, and agreed this list would serve as an initial guide for the future Conservator

Discussion regarding signage at the Common Burying Ground

- Identified four (4) different sign types: Rules Signs, Identity Signs, Interpretive Signs and a specific sign for 'God's Little Acre'
- Rules Signs
 - Least complicated. Can be completed by the city within existing budget and short timeline
 - Commission agreed to look at city ordinances and then consider exact verbiage
 - Signs to be attached to the fence at each entrance
- Identity Signs:
 - These require budgeting and have some timeline for completion
 - Discussed putting two (2) at Common Burying Ground: 1) at Farewell Street/Clarke Ave; 2) at Warner Street entrance
 - Commission agreed these should follow the common city model for park signs which includes two posts and a dark blue sign.
 - Discussed having a common icon or symbol at the top of all Newport Cemetery signs

- Interpretive Signs
 - Most complex, longest timeline.
- Special Sign for 'God's Little Acre'
 - We postponed further discussion on this as Theresa Stokes was not in attendance

Next Meeting

The agenda for the October meeting will be signs for the Common Burying Ground along with a survey to identify other concerns and/or action items in the Common Burying Ground.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting will be October 12th at 4pm. We will meet on-site at the Warner Street entrance to the Common Burying Ground

Submitted by

Andy Bjork, Secretary